

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W  
-----232141Z 062941 /45

R 221641Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO USINFO WASHDC  
USCINCEUR-ECAP  
USNMR SHAPE  
SECSTATE WASHDC 9453  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 2134

PASS IEU

SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE  
USIA FOR IOP/F MILLER

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION: PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT SUAREZ  
TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT SUAREZ TO PRESIDENT  
CARTER GIVEN HEAVY COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY IN MADRID  
PRESS.

2. ON MARCH 9 ALBERTO VALVERDE WROTE FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR DIARIO 16 (MODERATE LEFT): "THE CARTER ADMINISTRA-  
TION HAS REJECTED THE END OF MARCH DATE PROPOSED BY  
THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE TRIP OF PRESIDENT  
SUAREZ TO THE UNITED STATES AND SUGGESTED THAT HE  
VISIT WASHINGTON IN JUNE OR JULY...THE LACK OF AGREE-  
MENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS FOR A DATE PRECEDING  
THE SPANISH ELECTIONS...APPEARS TO HAVE ABORTED THE  
GIANT PUBLIC RELATIONS OPERATION THAT THE PRESIDENCY  
(SUAREZ) HAD THOUGHT TO CARRY OUT WITH THE SUAREZ-CARTER  
ENCOUNTER BEFORE THE ELECTIONS...ON THE PART OF THE  
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CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THE VISIT...OFFERED THE RISK OF  
BEING INTERPRETED AS A DIRECT AND EXCLUSIVE ENDORSEMENT  
(OF THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT)."

3. ON MARCH 10 FELIPE SAHAGUN WROTE FROM NEW YORK FOR  
INFORMACIONES (INDEPENDENT): "IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THERE WERE PRESSURES OF 'LOBBIES. BY VARIOUS SPANISH

POLITICAL GROUPS AGAINST WASHINGTON INFLUENCING...THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION." IN SAME ISSUE COLUMNIST ABLE HERNANDEZ MADE SIMILAR OBSERVATIONS.

4. MARCH 12 INFORMACIONES AND YA (CATHOLIC) REPORTED THAT PLANS GOING AHEAD FOR TRIP. ARRIBA (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) OF SAME DATE PRINTED EDITORIAL: "FORTUNATELY, THERE WAS AN OFFICIAL DENIAL (OF MARCH 10 STORIES). AND FRANKLY, BY PURE LOGIC WE COULD NOT GIVE CREDIT TO THE ACCOUNTS THAT CLAIMED THAT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAD CEDED TO PRESSURES BY SPANISH POLITICAL 'LOBBIES'...THE ALLEGED JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RUMOR - THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT WISH TO REINFORCE THE POLITICAL IMAGE OF THE (SPANISH) PRESIDENT - DID NOT, IN OUR EYES, FIT THE ONGOING LOGIC OF AMERICAN POLICY..."

5. JOSE MARIA CARRASCAL WROTE FROM NEW YORK FOR MARCH 15 ABC (MONARCHIST) THAT RUMORS WERE "PRODUCTS OF FERTILE IMAGINATIONS" AND THAT THERE IS "INTEREST BY BOTH SIDES IN THE ENCOUNTER. BUT WHILE THE AMERICANS SEE NO URGENCY...IT COULD BE THAT THE SPANISH SIDE IS MORE IN A HURRY."

6. ON MARCH 18, CARRASCAL REPORTED THAT THE VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN APRIL. MARCH 19 ABC EDITORIALIZED: "IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE VISIT OF THE KING TO WASHINGTON PRECEDED THE RATIFICATION OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN TREATY, THIS COMING ENCOUNTER BETWEEN SUAREZ AND PRESIDENT CARTER UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD PRECEDE THE DEVELOPMENT, THE CONCRETE EXPRESSION AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION - AT THE LEVEL OF SPANISH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS - OF ALL OF THE WILLINGNESS FOR COOPERATION PROCLAIMED IN THE TREATY." ARGUING FOR A U.S. ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "IS IT NOT FULLY LOGICAL THAT FACED WITH SUCH A SITUATION (OF ECONOMIC CRISIS), THE UNITED STATES WOULD DECIDE TO DESCEND FROM THE LEVEL OF DECLARATIONS AND PROPOSALS TO CONCRETE LEVELS? FROM SPANISH SHOE EXPORTS, FOR EXAMPLE, TO THE THEME OF FINANCIAL AID SO THAT SPAIN COULD CUT THE GORDIAN KNOT FORMED BY THE SIMULTANEOUS INFLATION AND RECESSION OF OUR ECONOMY, THERE EXISTS A WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR URGENT AGREEMENT."

7. ON MARCH 18 ANTONIO PARRA WROTE FROM NEW YORK FOR ARRIBA:"THE INVITATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE...HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON DURING THE LAST VISIT BY VICE PRESIDENT ALFONSO OSORIO TO NEW YORK SIX

WEEKS AGO...SURELY THE VISIT OF ADOLFO SUREZ TO THE UNITED STATES - PROBABLY IN THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL - CONSTITUTES A SIGNAL OF THE BROAD MORAL SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY WITH WHICH WASHINGTON OBSERVES THE PLAN FOR DEMOCRATIZATION...AND THE MAN WHO HAS DIRECTED THE MAVEUVER."

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USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 2134

PASS IEU  
SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE  
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8. ON THE SAME DATE, FELIPE SAHAGUN WROTE FOR THE FRONT PAGE OF INFORMACIONES: "THE CONFIRMATION OF THE TRIP OF PRESIDENT SUAREZ...IS INTERPRETED IN AMERICAN POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AS A CLEAR SIGNAL THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE PLANS AND PROGRAM OF THE PRESENT SPANISH GOVERNMENT, IN SPITE OF STRONG SPANISH AND AMERICAN PRESSURES... THE FINAL DECISION TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT SUAREZ COULD SIGNIFY THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDERS A GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTER OR CENTER-LEFT MORE CONVENIENT FOR SPAIN AFTER JUNE THAN A GOVERNMENT OF THE RIGHT..."

9. IN SAME ISSUE, ABLE HERNANDEZ WRITES THAT "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION...APPEARS CONVINCED THAT WHAT IS GOOD FOR SPAIN AND FOR THE FREE WORLD AND WHAT RESPONDS TO THE SOCIOLOGICAL REALITY OF THE COUNTRY... IS TO REINFORCE THE CENTER POLITICAL OPTION... MR. ADOLFO SUAREZ MOVES IN EXACTLY THIS SPACE. THE INTENTION

IS TO AVOID BIPOLAR EXTERISM AT ALL COSTS...IT OCCURS  
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THAT, IN ANY CASE, DEMOCRACY HAS A PRICE, AND IT MUST  
BE PAID. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF SPAIN IS GRAVE...  
BECAUSE OF THIS WASHINGTON IS VERY SERIOUSLY STUDYING...  
A SPECIES OF 'MARSHAL PLAN' FOR SPAIN. IT APPEARS THAT  
THE FIRST CONDITION THAT THE UNITED STATES PLAAES IS  
A STABILIZATION PLAN AFTER ELCTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT  
OF BONN HAS A SIMILAR ATTITUDE...IN THESE MOMENTS  
THERE ARE STRONG REASONS TO THINK THAT THERE WILL BE  
AN ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE A MODERATE EUROPEAN SOCIALISM,  
WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PREVALENCE..."

10. "VARELA. COMMENTED IN MARCH 19 EL ALCAZAR  
(RIGHTIST): "TODAY'S THEME IS THE INTOLERABLE MEDLLING  
BY A FUNCTIONARY - HIGHLY PLACED IN THE U.S. ADMINISTRA-  
TION, ACCORDING TO THE INFORMACIONES CORRESPONDENT IN  
NEW YORK - IN SPAIN INTERNAL ISSUES. THIS INTERFERENCE  
IN OUR AFFAIRS IS INTOLERABLE, IF THE INFORMATION FILTERED  
TO SEVERAL SPANISH CORRESPONDENTS IN NEW YORK THAT THE  
U.S. WOULD BLATANTLY SUPPORT A 'LEFT-CENTER' FOR SPAIN  
IN CORRECT. AND IT IS INTOLERABLE BECAUSE WHERE THE  
NORTH AMERICANS STICK THEIR FOOT, THEY STICK IT IN UP  
TO THE NECK..."

11. LUIS APOSTUA WROTE IN THE MARCH 19 YA: "THE VISIT  
OF PRESIDENT SUAREZ APPEARS CONFIRMED...TOGETHER WITH  
PRESIDENT CARTER'S GENERAL DECLARATION (IN THE UNITED  
NATIONS), THERE IS A CLEAR ELECTORAL FALLOUT IN  
THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BECAUSE THIS ENTAILS FOREIGN  
REINFORCEMENT FOR SUAREZ."

12. JUAN YUSTE REPORTED FOR EL PAIS OF THE SAME DATE  
THAT "THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT...WAS MADE LESS THAN  
24 HOURS AFTER JIMMY CARTER REFERRED TO AMERICAN SUPPORT  
FOR THE 'STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS' IN  
SPAIN AND PORTUGAL...AND ONLY FIVE DAYS AFTER THE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SPAIN, WHICH  
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WAS QUALIFIED AS 'FRANKLY FAVORABLE' BY SPANISH DIPLOMATIC  
SOURCES."

13. LUIS APOSTUA WROTE IN YA OF MARCH 20: "WHEN THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RECEIVES ADOLFO SUAREZ IN

THE WHITE HOUSE..HIS (SUAREZ'S) ELECTORAL OPERATION WILL  
HAVE RECEIVED THE ULTIMATE ENDORSEMENT. IN THIS SNESE  
EVERYTHING BLOWS IN FAVOR OF THE YOUNG PRESIDENT OF THE  
(SPANISH) GOVERNMENT; PROPERLY SPEAKING, HIS ELECTORAL  
FORCE IS DOMESTIC...BUT THE AMERICAN BENEDICTION, THAT  
SAVED GENERAL FRANCO IN 1953, IS NEVER UNSUITABLE...SUAREZ  
A CANDIDATE. THAT IS A BIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE..." ITEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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